



Gateway to 4-H

Hill County 4-H Newsletter October 2011 Edition

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Hill County 4-H Council 2011-2012

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1st Vice-President

James Bezdek

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Sheryl Raley
County Extension
Agent –
4-H & Youth
Development



Information Station

Congratulations to our 4-H members who competed at the West Texas Fair & Rodeo!

Payton Kimbrell ~ 3rd place steer, 4th place steer
Kennedy McFarland ~ 3rd place steer, 6th place steer, 2nd place Showmanship
Katy Warren ~ 1st Place Steer, 5th place steer

Congratulations to our Hill County Photography Winners!

Allen Fine ~ Advanced 2 Photos
James Bezdek ~ Advanced 7 Photos
Blake Pustejovsky ~ Advanced 5 Photos
Brock Pustejovsky ~ Advanced 7 Photos
Trena Pustejovsky ~ Advanced 2 Photos
Obie Rangel ~ Advanced 6 Photos



4-H Updates



October 3-9 is National 4-H Week!

Mark your calendars today for the National 4-H Week of Events.

Monday, October 3— Put up a poster at your school

Tuesday, October 4—Wear 4-H t-shirt to school

Wednesday, October 5—Tell a friend

Thursday, October 6—Announce at football game/school announcement/send bulk email

Friday, October 7—Fit for 4-H, make it work for your club

Saturday, October 8—One Day 4-H

Spend time this week promoting all the wonderful things that make up 4-H! Recruit new members and encourage existing members to get more involved!

To Make the Best Better!

4-H ANNUAL PARTICIPANT FEE

Since this year is the first year for 4-H participation fee, everyone will have to sign up for 4-H on the 4-H Connect Website www.4honline.com. This will be strictly enforced this year. You will have to pay your participation fees on this site. If you need help with this, feel free to come by the extension office for assistance. Membership dues cost \$20 if enrolled from September 1st to October 31st. After October 31st, dues will cost \$25. If you do not remember your password for this site, we can reset it for you. This has to be done for your child to be a bona fide 4-H member. Thank you for understanding the reasoning behind this change in 4-H. Lets stay committed to giving our full support to the 4-H program!

State Fair Ag Awareness Day (formerly Youth Leadership Day) will be Tuesday, October 11. I will have tickets available in my office for families who would like to attend. The day will start off with a Canned Food Drive starting at 8 a.m. Registration will begin at 9:00 a.m. at the Swine Barn Arena. The AgriQuest Contest will start at 11:00 a.m.



The next County Council Meeting for the new 4-H year will be Tuesday, October 11th at the Extension Office. The meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. We will kick off our new year and discuss upcoming 4-H events and plan the 4-H year. Hope to see all my officers there!

Help us welcome our new Ag & Natural Resource Agent, Ryan Collett to Hill County. We will be hosting a welcome reception for him on Wednesday, October 26th from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. This will take place at the Extension Office. Please join us in welcoming him into our 4-H program.

The official 4-H year starts in August of 2011. I will need all enrollment forms completed online by the end of November in order for the member to be able to participate in the Hill County Fair. This means completed and membership dues paid. This rule has been in effect but not strictly enforced. This means no enrollment should be completed the week of the Hill County Fair! So please do your best to have yours and your child's enrollment forms completed and paid for as soon as they are filled out! This also ensures that you will be getting your monthly newsletter! Again, thanks for all of your help and support.



If you are interested in the clothing and textiles project then this is for you! The District 8 Fashion & Clothing Show is in February (Location and Date TBA). If you would like to compete in this competition, NOW is the time to start planning or constructing your project. Karen plans to set aside an afternoon during the week (after school) twice per month to help you with your projects starting in September. This is for the buying and construction part of the fashion show. Contact Karen to inform her of your project and to set up an appointment.

The next available Food Challenge practice will take place on Tuesday, October 18th. This will start at 5:30 p.m. at the Extension Office. If your club has a team already, that's great! If you do not have a team yet, then come to practice anyway and we can set up a team! Hope to see you there!

The Hill County Food Challenge will be on Tuesday, November 15th. The contest will start at 5:30 p.m. Teams must be entered by Thursday, November 10th. Call Lana, the Extension secretary, to sign up your team.

4-H Parents & Adult Volunteers

QUALITY COUNTS TRAINING IS NOW IN EFFECT!!

Quality Counts Verification is now active and ready to be used! Moving forward into the 2011-2012 Major Show Season, Quality Counts Verification will be a part of the process for entry in all major shows. This means youth exhibitors will need to demonstrate their knowledge of the Six Pillars of Character and the Eight Core Concepts presented in the Quality Counts Curriculum. To do this, they will need to pass an online test on the website

(<http://qualitycounts.tamu.edu/>) and acquire a Quality Counts Verification number.

Hill County will offer several trainings throughout the fall to train all of our 4-H members on this curriculum. 4-H members must attend these trainings in order to take the verification test. Again, this is required for anyone wanting to participate at any 2012 Major Livestock Show. 4-H members must pass this test in order to even sign up for a major livestock show. The member must retake this test until it is passed.

Things you need to know about Verification:

* 2012 - All Major Livestock Shows in Texas will require Quality Counts Verification at the time of entry - This means youth will need to be verified prior to entry in the fall of 2011.

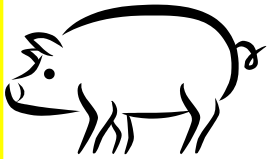
* A Verification number is obtained by answering 80% of the questions correctly on an online test.

This will be strictly enforced and there will be no exceptions!

ATTENTION CLUB MANAGERS!! It is time to re-charter clubs once again. I need your re-charter forms ASAP! Deadline is October 24th.

Livestock Project News

Major Show Entry Night has been set for Thursday, November 3rd. This will be held at the Extension office from 5:30 to 7:30. 4-H members will be able to sign up for Fort Worth, San Antonio, San Angelo, Houston, and Austin. The Houston Livestock Show does require a notary public to witness the parent and child sign the entry form. We will have a notary public at the office on entry night at the cost of \$1 per page. Your child must be a registered 4-H member before signing up for a major livestock show. Sign them up on www.4honline.com. If they are not a bonafide 4-H member, they will not be able to sign up or compete at a major livestock show. This will be the absolute last day to turn in paperwork! **NO EXECPTIONS!**



The Holiday Classic Livestock Show and Clinic is coming up! It is held at the Bell County Expo Center in Belton. The clinics will take place on Saturday, November 12. Species covered will be beef, swine, sheep and goats. The shows will take place on Sunday, November 13. There will be a showmanship show that will be divided by experience and not by age. This is a **FREE** event! Saturday night there will be a complimentary steak dinner!

Order your Major Show Broilers by October 7. This is for members who want to show chickens at San Antonio, Houston or Star of Texas (Austin). This is not for Hill County Broilers. Orders must be in increments of 25 with a maximum of 75 per exhibitor. Sharing birds within a family is not allowed. Cost is \$31.25/per box of 25 birds. Payment must be made at time of order. The pick-up date for San Antonio, Houston and Austin Broilers will be January 27.

Order your chickens today for the Hill County Fair. The cost will be \$1.40/per bird with a minimum order of 25 birds. We will also include a \$1 fee for every box of 25 birds. Ideal Poultry has started charging for these boxes the birds come in. Making the total cost of 25 birds \$36.

The pick-up date will be in December.

Order deadline is October 14th at the Extension office.

Payment must be included or we will not order your birds!



The **LAST** available Quality Counts Trainings will take place on Monday, October 17th, starting at 6:00 p.m., at the Extension Office. Remember, this is required before you can enter any major livestock show for 2012 year. This training will be limited to the first 50 participants to register. You must sign up to take this training at least a week in advance!



IMPORTANT VALIDATION DATES



County and Major Show Validation for Lambs and Goats will take place Tuesday, October 25th, at the Hill County Fair Grounds. It will start at 3:30 p.m. Bring with you your signed Ethics Policy to speed up the process! County tags will cost \$2/per tag. We will also validate all Major Show Breeding Sheep this day.



Important Dates



October

- 7 Major Show Broiler order deadline
- 11 State Fair Ag Awareness Day
- 11 County Council Meeting
- 14 Hill County Fair Broiler order deadline
- 17 Quality Counts Training
- 18 Food Challenge Practice
- 24 Club Charter/Rec-Charter deadline
- 25 Lamb & Goat Validation, County Swine Validation
- 26 Reception for new Ag Agent, Ryan Collett

November

- 3 Major Show Entry Night
- 7 Major Show Broiler Order deadline
- 12&13 Holiday Classic—Belton
- 14 Hill County Fair Broiler Order deadline
- 15 Hill County Food Challenge/Food Show

December

- 7 Major Show Broiler order deadline
- 11 State Fair Ag Awareness Day

~Look For More Important Dates To Come~